



**January 30, 2007**

**H.Con.Res. 34 - Honoring the life of Percy Lavon Julian, a pioneer in the field of organic chemistry research and development and the first and only African American chemist to be inducted into the National Academy of Sciences**

**Floor Situation**

H.Con.Res. 34 is being considered on the floor under suspension of the rules and will require a two-thirds majority vote for passage. This legislation was introduced by Representative Eddie Bernice Johnson (D-TX) on January 18, 2007, and was ordered to be reported from the Committee on Science and Technology on January 24, 2007.

H.Con.Res. 34 is expected to be considered on January 30, 2007.

**Summary**

H.Con.Res. 34 resolves that the House of Representatives, with the Senate concurring, honors the life of Percy Lavon Julian, a pioneer in the field of organic chemistry research and development and the first and only African American chemist to be inducted into the National Academy of Sciences.

**Background**

Dr. Julian was the first African American chemist elected to the National Academy of Sciences in 1973 for his lifetime of scientific accomplishments. Dr. Julian held over 130 patents at the time of his death in 1975, and he dedicated much of his life to the advancement of African Americans in the sciences.

In 1935, Dr. Julian became the first to discover a process to synthesize physostigmine, the drug used in the treatment of glaucoma. Later, he pioneered a commercial process to synthesize cortisone from soy beans and yams, enabling the widespread use of cortisone as an affordable treatment of arthritis.

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